Allotment of Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies

1022. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Petrol Pumps/LPG Agencies allotted in each State till date;

(b) the number out of those agencies allotted to SC/ST, State-wise;

(c) the number of applications pending for approval, State-wise; and

(d) the number of new agencies proposed to be allotted during the current year alongwith their locations' State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As on 1.10.1998 there were 16981 retail outlet dealerships and 5560 LPG distributorships in operation all over the country. Out of these 1496 retail outlet dealerships and 899 LPG distributorships belong to SC/ST.

(c) and (d) In addition to the locations pending from previous marketing plans, a total of 732 retail outlet dealerships and about 2000 LPG distributorships have been included in the marketing plan 1996—98 for appointment of dealers/distributors all over the country. Selection of dealers/distributors for locations included in the marketing plans is made as per prescribed procedure of issue of advertisements by the oil companies and selection of the eligible candidates by the Dealer Selection Boards on merit. Oil Companies have advertised a large number of locations for selection of dealers/distributors and selection process is in progress. It generally takes about 6 to 12 months for commissioning of dealerships/distributorships from the date of interview.

Adulteration in Petrol Pumps

1023. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Petrol Pumps have committed irregularities and are found guilty of adulteration;

(b) if so, the details of such agencies in each State; and

(c) the action proposed to check adulteration of Petrol by Petrol Pumps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) During the period April to December, 98, oil marketing companies detected a total of 309 cases of malpractices/irregularities. The State-wise details are given in the statement. (*See* below)

(c) To check malpractices and irregularities at Retail Outlets, regular inspections/surprise checks of retail outlets are carried out by the officers of the oil marketing companies in cooperation with law enforcing agencies. Also, special drives are launched by the industry from time to time for checking malpractices including adulteration, and conduct campaigns for educating the consumers.

Statement

State-wise number of malpractices/irregularities detected at Retail Outlets during the period April to December, 1998.

State	Number of Malpractices/ Irregularities detected
Haryana	9
Himachal Pradesh	0
J & K	1
Delhi	11
Chandigarh	0
Punjab	29
Rajasthan	34
Uttar Pradesh	35
NE States	13
Bihar	10

State	Number of Malpractices/ Irregularities detected
Orissa	4
West Bengal	15
Goa	2
Gujarat	41
Madhya Pradesh	13
Maharashtra	26
Andhra Pradesh	14
Karnataka	23
Kerala	5
Tamil Nadu	24
TOTAL	309

Disinvestment in BRPL

1024. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of proposed disinvestment of Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemical Ltd. (BRPL) in Assam;

(b) whether ICICI has submitted its report on disinvestment of BRPL;

(c) if so, the salient features and reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) whether Government would consider exclusion of BRPL from disinvestment in line with the report of ICICI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Government had approved the appointment of an Adviser to examine all alternatives and options including those recommended by the Disinvetment Commission. the recommendation of BRPL Board on the Report of Adviser has been received. The report of Adviser broadly covers aspects such as financial analysis, marketing of products, future business scenario and strategic alliance opportunities for BRPL.

The Government has meanwhile, appointed a Committee to *inter-alia*, study and assess the viability and prospects of stand alone marketing companies and stand alon refineries including the BRPL

Price of Aviation Turbine Fuel

1025. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to reduce price of aviation turbine fuel;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to end dual pricing system of ATF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Ex-storage point price of ATF (other than International airlines) exclusive of Excise Duty etc. has been reduced by Rs.78.24/KL with effect from the midnight of 27th/28th February, 1999.

(c) No, Sir.

Performance of Private Sector in Oil Exploration

1026. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the performance of private sector in the field of oil exploration, so far;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with their performance; and

(c) if not, the details of steps taken to improve their performance specially in the North-Eastern Region?